

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A tubular receptacle used for securing a first structure and a second structure of furniture, the tubular receptacle being introducible and securable into a bore on the first structure, and comprising:

a ~~terminal end~~base,

an external cylindrical member mounted on said ~~terminal end~~base, the external cylindrical member having a side perimeter wall with at least one hinged member, and

an internal cylindrical member mounted on said ~~terminal end~~base, the internal cylindrical member being spaced apart from and inside of said external cylindrical member.

9. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member has a hinged end and a free end and wherein the hinged end is thinner than the free end.

10. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member includes a ~~node~~protrusion at a free end thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member moves away from the internal cylindrical member upon insertion of a second structure onto the internal cylindrical member.

12. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member has a vertical axis and is displaceable away from said vertical axis and towards said internal cylindrical member when said receptacle is fully inserted into a bore of a first structure of furniture.

13. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said hinged member has a vertical axis and is displaceable away from said vertical axis and away from said internal cylindrical member of said tubular receptacle and into the body of a first structure of furniture upon introduction of a second structure into said tubular receptacle.

14. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said internal cylindrical member is threaded.

15. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 14, wherein a second member is screwable onto said threaded internal cylindrical member to cam the hinged member to outwardly engage sides of a bore.

16. (Previously Presented) The tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8, wherein said external cylindrical member has at least one groove.

17. (Previously Presented) Furniture comprising a first structure and a second structure where the second structure is connected to the first structure by the tubular receptacle as set forth in claim 8.